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Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Report

November 2011

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Part 1. SCIP Implementation Update

State Overview

The SCIP (Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan) provides an overview of Iowa and its interoperability challenges.

Iowa is located in the north central portion of the United States and is surrounded by Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The Mississippi River forms the entire eastern border and the Missouri River forms much of the western border. The State has an area of 56,271 square miles and is ranked 26th in the Nation in terms of size.

The population in Iowa is approximately 3,046,355 (2010), ranks 30th in the United States in terms of population, and has increased by only 4% since 2000 (120,031). Population density is around 53.5 people per square mile (ranked 35th). Distribution of the population is scattered across the State, but is generally highest in the central and east central regions and lowest in the southwest and south central regions.

Iowa's six largest cities, with estimated populations are:
- Des Moines (Polk County and the state capitol) - 194,163
- Cedar Rapids (Linn County) - 123,119
- Davenport (Scott County) - 98,845
- Sioux City (Woodbury County) - 83,148
- Waterloo (Black Hawk County) - 66,483
- Iowa City (Johnson County) - 62,887

Only two of these six largest counties have populations in excess of 100,000 people. Eleven counties (Black Hawk, Clinton, Dallas, Dubuque, Johnson, Linn, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Story, and Woodbury) of Iowa's 99 counties, account for 51.1% of Iowa's population. Twenty-four of Iowa's counties gained populations since 2000, while seventy-five counties experienced declining populations.

Farms occupy about 86 percent of Iowa's land use, with urban areas (e.g., pavement, buildings, and other large structures) accounting for one percent of the land use. Much of Iowa's terrain consists of flat or gently rolling plains. However, elevation in the State ranges from 480 to 1,671 feet above sea level. The northeast is cut by streams and hills that rise above the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The western portion of the State contains the Loess Hills, which reach hundreds of feet in elevation. The north central region contains most of Iowa's level land.

Natural hazards for the State include tornadoes, flooding, snowstorms, ice storms, and

occasional blizzards in the winter. There are a total of 3,323 dams within Iowa, 87 being classified as having a high damage potential and 192 classified as having significant hazard potential. There are also ten lock and dam systems along the Mississippi River. In 2008, Iowa suffered substantial damage to wide-area flooding in the northeast part of the state, in 2010 flooding in the north central part, and in 2011, summer-long flooding to the western edge of the state along the Missouri River, in addition to periodic extensive tornado damage.

The primary highway system is critical to the passenger, freight, and transportation movements through and throughout the State. Iowa's interstate system, both north-south (I-29 and I-35) and east-west (I-80), intersect to form an interstate crossroads of America, and will continue to play a critical role in national and international trade.

The Iowa Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) does not contain detailed information on specific agency capabilities or an implementation plan for each individual agency to operate on a statewide system. This will be developed as a component of the funding and build-out of the statewide communications plan develops, as further described below.

Surveys of Iowa's communication systems reveal that about 75% are disparate VHF systems, and about 15% are 800 MHz systems.

While numerous State agencies utilize emergency communications systems, the State's radio communications system consists primarily of the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Department of Transportation's systems. There are multiple local systems in place or in the process of being implemented, some as a result of PSIC (Public Safety Interoperable Communications) grant funding distributed by Iowa's Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) to support improvement in nine public safety communication systems in Iowa.

Besides the governmental operations, RACOM, which is a privately owned and operated communications system, has a substantial presence in Iowa, serving public safety agencies. All of these local and regional systems have gone through the process of evaluating present systems, identifying future needs, planning to move towards these needs, and creating the governance and funding schemes to create systems that are used on a day-to-day basis.

Substantial improvement in communications capabilities and local interoperability have occurred in the last four years, as follows:

- Construction of a regional, interstate trunked system is Woodbury County, IA – a STARCOM 800 MHz tri-state system that facilitates interoperability in northwest Iowa, and adjacent counties in Nebraska and South Dakota;
- Pottawattamie County, IA built an 800 MHz trunked system component as part of the Omaha, NE metro area (Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska along with Pottawattamie County) area-wide trunked communications system allowing

interoperability along the Nebraska-Iowa state line metro area;
- Scott County (Davenport, IA area) consolidated their disparate radio systems into an 800 MHz county-wide trunked RACOM EDACS system network to improve interoperability and consolidate communications systems;
- Johnson County (Iowa City, IA) consolidated their radio systems and three dispatching centers into one 800 MHz county-wide trunked RACOM P25 communications system;
- Linn County (Cedar Rapids, IA) will be building an 800 MHz trunked RACOM P25 communications system in 2012, which will be linked to the Johnson County system.

However, the most significant challenge has been informing, educating, scheduling and seeking funding to address the FCC's narrowbanding mandate, due on 12/31/2012. This mandate will continue to divert funds and resources over the coming year as that deadline approaches. While the ISICSB has tried to assist in coordinating the scheduling of these narrowband conversions to reduce interoperability, it is anticipated that lapses in current interoperability will occur during various uncoordinated conversions. The narrowbanding mandate affects the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Natural Resources, and many law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service agencies' radio systems, as well as emergency management's severe weather sirens, two-tone pagers, etc.

Vision and Mission

Overview of the interoperable communications vision and mission of Iowa:

The Iowa SCIP has a timeframe of 7 **years (December, 2011 – December, 2018).**

Vision: In November, 2009, the ISICSB approved an Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) master plan (dated 9/2/9/09), which can be found at http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/planning-documents.html. This master plan will establish a statewide 700 MHz LMR (land mobile-radio) communications backbone to connect the many disparate public safety radio communications systems in Iowa to be used on a daily basis by all responders within a defined framework under an organized governance structure subject to unified standard operating procedures. It contains a plan for state and local agency migration to the statewide system including alternatives for joining the system or interfacing to it, as well as a proposed phased implementation approach. This proposed statewide system will encompass voice, some data, and Next Generation (NG) 911.

Additionally, in May, 2010, the ISICSB was one of twenty-one applicants granted a conditional waiver by the FCC to operate in the 700 MHz Broadband spectrum in Iowa statewide. ISICSB's vision is to build-out a high speed broadband network to complement its 700 MHz LMR system and become part of a nationwide public safety broadband network, as Iowa sees the increasing importance of high speed data and its applications to public safety.

Mission: The ISICSB shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the State and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the Federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

The immediate goals of the ISICSB will focus on five areas:

1. Development of a successful stakeholder outreach program to educate and obtain support for interoperability initiatives statewide in Iowa;
2. Fully support Iowa's conversion and compliance with the FCC's narrowbanding mandate deadline of 12/31/2012;
3. Successful completion of the ISICSB ten interoperability initiatives in Iowa funded by the expenditure of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program funds;
4. Develop a feasible plan for the build-out of a statewide wireless broadband network (WBN) to complement the ISICS 700 MHz LMR build-out as contained in the ISICSB Master Plan;
5. Work with Iowa's Governor, its ISICSB legislative members, and the Iowa legislature to secure critically needed funding to implement the ISICS Master Plan and the WBN;

Governance

Overview of the governance structure, practitioner-driven approaches, and funding:

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is responsible for the creation, implementation, and operation of a statewide interoperable communications system. The ISICSB was legislatively created and signed into law in 2007. Members represent the State agencies of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Corrections, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Public Health. Additionally, appointed by the Governor, are two representatives from municipal police departments, sheriffs' offices, fire departments (paid and volunteer), and public safety communication center managers, as well as one at-large member. Four members of the Iowa General Assembly, two Senators and two Representatives, also participate as non-voting ex-officio members.

In March, 2010, the ISICSB hired James Bogner as its first full-time statewide interoperability coordinator (SWIC). Mr. Bogner has been designated as the primary day-to-day point-of-contact for interoperability in Iowa, and the ISICSB.

His contact information is as follows:

James Bogner, Iowa SWIC
215 E. 7th St. Room 225
Des Moines, IA 50319-1902
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bogner@dps.state.ia.us

The ISICSB held an initial SCIP Implementation Workshop in January, 2009 which focused on formalizing the governance structure of the ISICSB. This was supplemented by a SCIP Workshop in March, 2010 and March, 2011, and Technical Analysis (TA) Workshops held in May, 2010 focusing on the further development of the ISICSB and regional governance structures in Iowa. In the latter part of 2010, the ISICSB adopted a formalized governance structure with six committees: Governance, Financial, Operations, Technical, Outreach, and Training & Education. The ISICSB established its governing Administrative Rules, which was approved by the Iowa Legislature in 2011. It is in the process of adopting additional operational by-laws, which will be completed in 2012.

As a result of the March, 2011 SCIP Workshop focusing on regional governance and outreach, the ISICSB Outreach Committee began a series of six regional outreach workshops to facilitate creating Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs) to assist in identifying priorities for the ISICSB and needs of the stakeholders. Results of those workshops identified the need for additional education about interoperability solutions and ISICSB initiatives, as well as stakeholder-ISICSB strategic interoperability planning. The Outreach Committee has followed-up with a survey about future outreach efforts, identified as critical to a successful statewide interoperability plan and network.

Intrastate interoperability efforts continue, such as encouragement of interoperability agreements within Iowa, to include Special Use Agreements, Emergency Operations Plans, and an Iowa Mutual Aid Assistance Compact. As part of ISICSB's interstate interoperability efforts, the Iowa SWIC is in contact with its neighboring states to further interstate interoperability efforts. He has actively engaged Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Missouri in interoperability issues and initiatives. Additionally, the SWIC and ISICSB actively participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 7, Regional Emergency Communication Coordination Working Group (RECCWG), which includes the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, have been meeting to discuss interoperability and identify mutually beneficial opportunities.

When the ISICS Master Plan, estimated to cost $339 million was completed and presented to the Iowa Legislature for funding, it was viewed as too costly for this single initiative in an economically challenging time for a state government, facing revenue deficits. The ISICSB now has, as ex-officio Board members, four Iowa state legislators, which are on its Finance Committee. This committee began meetings in early 2011 to study the issues and examine funding options. Unfortunately, no funding was available as a result of the 2011

legislative session, which, as far as public safety communications, focused on the FCC narrowbanding order as a critical time-sensitive mandate. The Committee will continue to meet to identify possible funding solutions. In July, 2011, the ISICSB issued an RFI (Request for Information) see\king vendor solutions and efficiencies to a statewide build-out of a 700 MHz LMR (land mobile-radio) and WBN (Wireless Broadband Network.)

Governance Initiatives

The following table outlines the strategic governance initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Establish a full-time SWIC or equivalent	*Hired SWIC March, 2010*	*ISICSB*	*03/2010*	*Complete*
Establish SIGB via legislation	*Established by legislation*	*Iowa Legislature*	*09/2007*	*Complete*
Incorporate the recommended membership into the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB)	*Membership established by legislation*	*Iowa Legislature*	*09/2007*	*Complete*
Additional State Initiatives				
Establish ISICSB governance structure with formalized committees and missions	*Established 2010*	*ISICSB SWIC*	*10/2010*	*Complete*
Establish Administrative Rules, By-Laws and formal procedures for ISICSB operation	*Administrative Rules established; By-laws and procedures to be documented & formalized*	*ISICSB Governance Committee*	*04/2012*	*In Progress*
Hold regularly scheduled meetings	*Sustain governance initiatives and improve stakeholder outreach*	*ISICSB SWIC*	*Monthly*	*In Progress*
Expand stakeholder outreach to regions by establishing Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs)	*Stakeholder participation not sufficiently inclusive statewide; started RICs*	*ISICSB Outreach Committee*	*March, 2011*	*In Progress*
Financial Committee to secure interoperability funding in Iowa	*The ISICSB has no funding beyond IECGP grants, which expire in 2013; Secure funding*	*ISICSB Financial Committee Iowa Legislature*	*April, 2012; Annually*	*In Progress*
Establish FEMA Region VII RECCWG Governance structure and membership	*RECCWG needs governance structure to address Region 7 interstate interoperability*	*Region VII RECCWG SWICs*	*February, 2012*	*In Progress*

Standard Operating Procedures

Overview of the shared interoperable communications-focused SOPs

The ISICSB recognizes the importance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Plain Language, Standard Channel Nomenclature and standardized operating procedures as key components to communications interoperability. It has supported statewide efforts to ensure both State and local responders have proper information to implement and become compliant with NIMS. In 2004, Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) developed a statewide NIMS Implementation Plan that addressed State, local, and tribal jurisdictions. HSEMD produced a CD that assisted local jurisdictions in becoming NIMS-compliant with 2006 standards and by November 2007, Iowa demonstrated 95 percent NIMS compliancy.

In 2010, the ISICSB established the Operations Committee to examine the issue of Plain Language' and Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels, as published by APCO/NPSTC in 2010. As a result, the ISICSB took a formal position on strongly endorsing Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature in Iowa to improve interoperability. Information on these initiatives is posted on the ISICSB web site, and discussed during outreach efforts by the SWIC.

In May, 2010, the ISICSB held a Technical Analysis (TA) Workshop on SOP Development, and as a result drafted an SOP template for use as the statewide interoperable communications system is built-out.

The ISICSB will also be seeking input from regional public safety systems on their SOPs to incorporate best practices into the statewide system. As the statewide system is built-out, the Operations Committee, and SOP subcommittee will promulgate appropriate SOP best practices and policies. As Iowa does not presently have a statewide system in place, much of this initiative is pending.

The ISICSB annually sponsors a Communications-Leader (COM-L) class to establish a corps of trained COMLs and promote SOPs, NIMS, Plain Language, Standardized Channel Nomenclature, and Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICPs). The ISICSB is planning on sponsoring a similar class in eastern Iowa in January, 2012.

Although Iowa does not have a UASI, a TICP was developed for Ottumwa, IA. SOPs in the TICP Scorecard for the City of Ottumwa achieved "established implementation." The TICP reviewers recommended that the SOPs in place needed to be more robustly exercised so that all responders would become familiar with them.

SOP Initiatives

The following table outlines the SOP strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.	ISICSB is developing RICs to address, among other items, SOPs initiatives	ISICSB Outreach and Operations Committees	12/2012	In Progress
All Federal, State, local and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions implement the Communications and Information Management section of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).	Iowa does not have a UASI; ISICSB does strongly support and promote NIMS, Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2011	Partially Completed
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs.	ISICSB is promoting this, especially during narrow-banding conversion	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Update SCIP to reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the Incident Command System (ICS).	Present SCIP does not address this; will be addressed in 2012	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Define alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans.	Will be incorporated into TICPs	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Additional State Initiatives				
Establish Operations Committee responsible for developing SOPs	Established; Committee working on SOP issues	ISICSB SWIC	10/2011	Completed
Meet NIMS requirements for all operations	SOP template drafted	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Promote Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature in multi-agency and daily operations	ISICSB supporting use; issued position statement encouraging use	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2011	Complete
Promote statewide SOPs to support all users	Iowa does not yet have a statewide system; will use RICs to develop local/regional SOPs	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Implement CASM (Communication Assets Survey & Mapping) application to improve interoperability statewide	CASM obtained in 2011; initiated limited rollout; will sponsor workshop and rollout statewide	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress

Technology

Overview of the technology approaches, current capabilities, and planned systems:

Radio interoperability among public safety agencies throughout Iowa varies widely with numerous disparate radio systems of different ages and technologies. Most counties share an emergency communications center for law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services (EMS); however, there are 122 Public Safety Access Points (PSAPs) in Iowa's 99 counties. When agencies operate in the same frequency band, they often use mutual aid channels for interoperable communications; gateways or console patches are used for interoperability for agencies operating in a different frequency band.

A detailed, emergency communications-focused survey was conducted in 2004 throughout Iowa with responses received from 12 cities, 72 counties, and eight State agencies. It revealed that first responders in Iowa use a variety of radio systems in all public safety frequency bands. The two largest statewide systems are owned by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa Department of Public Safety. These systems are nearing the end of their life expectancy and need to be replaced rather substantially upgraded, particularly as a result of the requirements of the FCC narrowbanding mandate.

Iowa's most immediate concern over the next two years, like other states, is the FCC narrowbanding mandate with a deadline of 12/31/2012. The Iowa SWIC has been aggressively educating public safety entities and elected officials in Iowa about this mandate and assisting in narrowbanding transition management, not only within Iowa, but coordinating Iowa's efforts with its adjacent states. The ISICSB issued a statewide narrowbanding guidance letter to all Iowa public safety agencies and continues educating and guiding local and state agencies in this mandate. In 2011, the SWIC appeared before the Iowa Legislative House Public Safety Committee to brief members about the narrowbanding issue to support such funding for state agencies to meet this mandate.

Iowa intends this new statewide interoperable communications system to be standards-based, P25 system-of-systems operating in the 700 megahertz (MHz) frequency spectrum. The implementation plan includes a migration plan for agencies to either connect to the new system when required or to use it full-time. The proposed implementation plan also addresses data networks. Iowa intends to use grant funds to create implementation plans, operating procedures and develop training materials for the new system. The ISICSB will be responsible for creating, implementing, and managing the new statewide interoperable communications system.

In October, 2009, the ISICSB applied for an FCC Waiver to operate a 700 MHz broadband wireless public safety network. It was granted this waiver, along with twenty other entities, in May, 2010. The ISICSB Vice-Chair and Iowa SWIC are coordinating their efforts for this emerging LTE (Long Term Evolution) broadband network with the other waiver recipients through the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST)-Operators Advisory Committee (OAC). The ISICSB, like other waiver entities, unsuccessfully applied for a build-out grant under the

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in July, 2010. The ISICB will be seeking funding in 2012 to fund the construction of the ISICS (Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System) and this wireless network component of the statewide ISICS master plan.

ISICSB is in the process of completing the purchases of Strategic Tactical Reserve (STR) equipment, as identified in the STR investment justification contained in the PSIC grant package. The first of these actions was the purchase of 911 Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) for placement in the Woodbury County Mobile Communications Vehicle. After this, radio caches with self-contained trailers will be purchased and stored in Woodbury and Scott Counties, as well as one located centrally at the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Major Systems

The following tables list the major systems in Iowa and include those used for solely interoperable communications, large regional systems specifically designed to provide interoperability solutions, and large wireless data networks.

Shared Statewide System[1] *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS)	*700 MHz, P25 LMR and Wireless Broadband Network (WBN)*	*Planned – Will seek legislative funding in 2012*

State Systems *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS)	*VHF-UHF, non-P25 high band VRS; presently undergoing narrowbanding*	*Existing; Planned migration to 700 MHz, P25 system interoperable with ISICS.*
Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT)	*VHF, P25 conventional narrowband system*	*Existing*
IDOT Data Radio Network	*VHF system*	*Existing*
Iowa Communications Network (ICN)	*Statewide fiber optics network available to state/local governments for full-motion video to support WBN, telephones, etc.*	*Existing*

[1] Shared statewide radio systems are typically designed to consolidate the communications of multiple State agencies onto a single system, thereby providing strong interoperability. Many States also make these systems available to Federal, local, and tribal agencies on a voluntary basis. In this case, local governments either chose to use the shared statewide radio system as their primary system, or they decided to interface their system to the shared statewide radio system creating a system of systems.

Regional Systems *(Name)*	Description *(Type, frequency, P25 compliance, etc.)*	Status (Existing, planned, etc.)
Woodbury STARCOM system	*Tri-state (Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska) regional 800 MHz, P25 system*	*Existing*
RACOM Network	*Privately owned, 800 MHz infrastructure available for lease and use by a number of Iowa and surrounding states' public safety agencies*	*Existing*
Omaha Metro Area system	*Pottawattamie County part of the Omaha, NE metro area. 800 MHz, P25, trunked system serving Douglas and Sarpy Counties, NE and Pottawattamie County, Iowa*	*Existing*
Davenport Trunked system	*Using RACOM, 800 MHz trunked county-wide system*	*Existing*
Johnson County, IA consolidated system	*Using RACOM, 800 MHz, P25, trunked consolidated system; consolidated dispatch operations*	*Existing*
Linn County, IA system	*Using RACOM, 800 MHz, P25, trunked consolidated system*	*Planned for 2012*

Technology Initiatives

The following table outlines the technology strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	Gap *(Brief Description)*	Owner *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	Milestone Date *(Month/Year)*	Status *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.	Promoted by ISICSB, especially during narrowbanding process	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress
Additional State Initiatives				
Establish STR (Strategic Tactical Reserve) cache	*Building three radio and trailer caches to be staged in 3 areas of state*	*ISICSB Technical Committee, STR sub-committee*	*06/2012*	*In Progress*
Complete local PSIC grant projects awarded to improve interoperability	*Grants awarded, monitor completion*	*ISICSB Financial Committee*	*06/2012*	*In Progress*
Develop 700 MHz LMR and WBN build-out and migration plan to the ISICS	*RFI issued for migration ideas; detailed planning will occur when funding acquired*	*ISICSB Operations and Technical Committees*	*04/2013*	*In Progress*
Build 700 MHz WBN to use PSBB and D-Block spectrums to complement ISICS LMR	*Seeking funding and D-Block legislation; obtained FCC Waiver; coordinating with other waiver recipients in nation-wide network build*	*ISICSB Technical and Finance Committees SWIC*	*Near term; 1-3 years;*	*In Progress*

Training and Exercises

Overview of the diversity, frequency, and inter-agency coordination of training and exercises:

The ISICISB is charged with developing and delivering training and exercise elements that support the ongoing development and deployment of interoperable communications. The types of training to be delivered are determined by state level needs to support the SCIP as well as local or regional needs identified by local users of communications systems. These efforts have included COM-L training and development of standard SOPs.

The ISICSB's established an Outreach Committee to develop a plan to reach out to all stakeholders to educate and support them in the build-out and operation of the statewide interoperable communications system. Their goal is to form Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs), as an outgrowth of the formal ISICSB governance structure in order to develop stakeholder support. The Training and Exercises Committee will support this outreach effort and provide the needed training and education regionally and statewide.

At the present time, the Iowa SWIC has aggressively reached out and provided education and training regarding the FCC's 12/31/12 narrowbanding mandate to Iowa's six homeland security regions, 2010 Governor's Homeland Security Conference, Iowa League of Cities, and Iowa State Association of Counties, and state law enforcement and fire associations. Additionally, educational materials have been placed on the ISICSB web site.

The Iowa SWIC is a regularly scheduled participant at Iowa's E911Council meetings as outreach and education efforts on behalf of the ISICSB as they relate to PSAPs and the 911 community in Iowa.

Training

Training for emergency responders in interoperability and broadband networks is planned for 2012.

The ISICSB sponsored a Communications-Leader (COM-L) annually to promote SOPs, NIMS, Plain Language, Standardized Channel Nomenclature, and TICPs. A COM-L class is scheduled for January, 2012 in Dubuque, IA to not only develop a corps of trained COMLs for Iowa, but in support of the Tri-state Communications exercise for Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to assess interstate interoperability along the Mississippi River.

The Iowa SWIC have produced training and education Power Points as well as assembled materials for use in training sessions and presentations regarding interoperability and narrowbanding. These materials have also been placed on the ISICSB web site for all stakeholders.

Exercises

State and county emergency management agencies maintain an exercise schedule to remain in compliance with various Federal and State funding guidelines. Several exercises of varying size and complexity are completed each year. In most of these exercises, communications is one of the tested elements. Iowa's plan for completion of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2 is to include a communications component in each such exercise. Participants include Federal, State, local, and private responders of all disciplines as well as government, State, and local officials. Additionally, all scheduled and future exercises are being developed to ensure that the proper NIMS elements are being tested.

The Iowa SWIC is a key member of the Tri-state (Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota) Exercise Planning Committee. A communications table-top exercise focusing on communications interoperability in response to a terrorist incident was held on December 1, 2010 for this group, with a follow-up full-scale exercise being planned for March 1, 2012.

Training and Exercises Initiatives

The following table outlines the training and exercises strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
NECP Initiatives				
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into training and exercises.	*Being promoted in Tri-state communications exercise as well as future training and exercises, especially during narrowbanding conversions*	*ISICSB Training & Education Committee*	*Near-term; Tri-state Exercise on March 1, 2012*	*In Progress*
Complete disaster communications training and exercises.	*Ensure a majority of training and exercise events contain a communications element*	*Iowa HSEMD ISICSB Training & Education Committee Local Emergency Management agencies*	*Ongoing*	*In Progress*
Additional State Initiatives				
Training and support ISICSB Outreach efforts	*Training based on needs as identified by the ISICSB. Training in support of SCIP and*	*ISICSB Training & Education Committee*	*Ongoing*	*In Progress*

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
	Master Implementation Plan;			
Educate stakeholders in public safety broadband	*Sponsor a statewide broadband workshop*	*ISICSB Training & Exercise Committee SWIC*	*03/2012*	*In Progress*

Usage

Overview of the testing of equipment and promotion of interoperability solutions:

The Iowa SCIP cites the Code of Iowa Chapter 80.28 definition of interoperability as "the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized." Iowa recognizes the need for the optimal level of interoperability on a daily basis.

As drafted, daily usage plans and SOPs will be developed by the Operations-SOP subcommittee in the coming year generally, and more specifically as the statewide interoperable communications system is being built-out.

The ISICSB has already taken the position to begin promoting Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature for agencies during the narrowbanding conversion process over the next two years in preparation for the statewide system.

Usage Initiatives

The following table should outline the usage strategic initiatives, gaps, owners, and milestone dates Iowa outlined in its SCIP to improve interoperable communications.

Initiative *(Name / Purpose)*	**Gap** *(Brief Description)*	**Owner** *(Agency, Department, and/or POC)*	**Milestone Date** *(Month/Year)*	**Status** *(Complete, In Progress, Not Started)*
Achieve daily usage by first responders of the ISICS	Develop SOPS and training programs	ISICSB Operations and Training & Education Committees	Near term; to be completed with build-out of ISICS	In Progress
ISICSB to take formal position promoting Plain Language and Standard Channel Nomenclature	ISICSB Issued position statement supporting both practices	ISICSB Operations Committee	12/2012	In Progress

National Emergency Communications Plan Goals

The National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) established a national vision for the future state of emergency communications. The desired future state is that emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized at all levels of government across all disciplines. To measure progress towards this vision, three strategic goals were established:

Goal 1—By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)[2] are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications[3] within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 2—By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

Goal 3—By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlines in national planning scenarios.

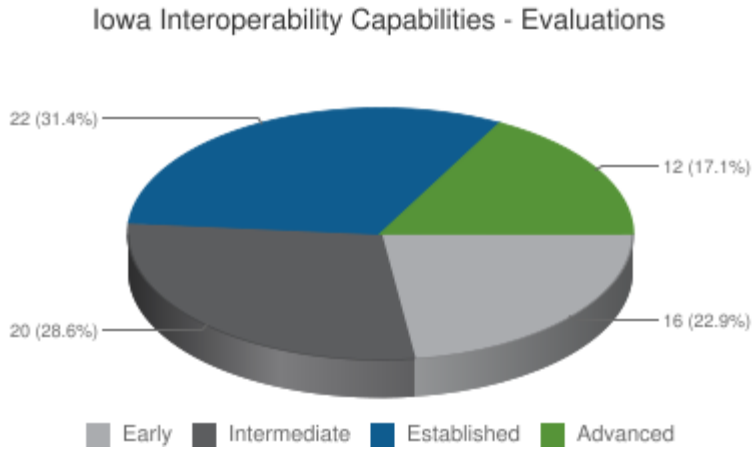
As part of the Goal 1 implementation process, OEC required UASIs to demonstrate response-level emergency communications during a planned event. Additionally, as part of the State's SCIP Implementation Report update in 2010, OEC is requiring information on UASIs' current capabilities. The capability questions are presented in Part II. UASIs must complete and submit responses on the capability questions to the SWIC or SCIP POC. The data generated from these questions will assist OEC in its analysis of Goal 1 performance and in identifying national trends in urban area communications. Similarly, to prepare for Goal 2 implementation in 2011, States are being asked to develop a methodology for collecting capability and performance data Statewide (please see Part III).

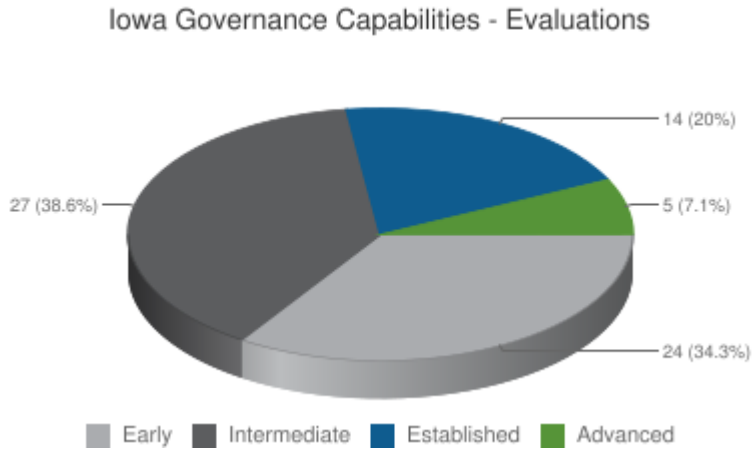
[2] As identified in FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program

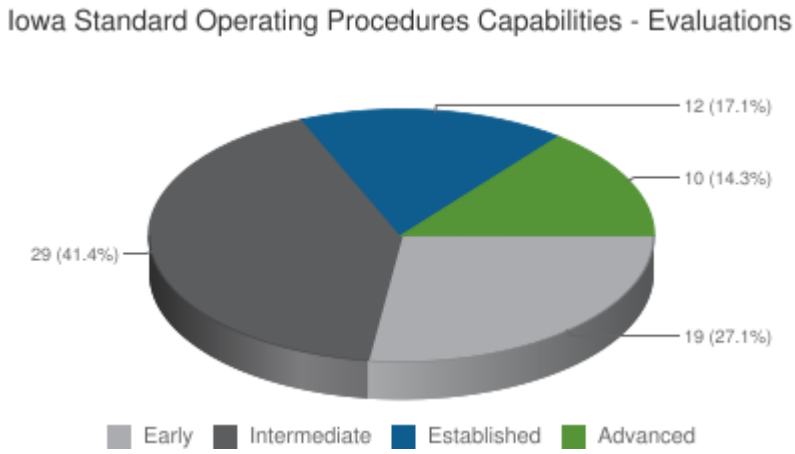
[3] Response-level emergency communication refers to the capacity of individuals with primary operational leadership responsibility to manage resources and make timely decisions during an incident involving multiple agencies, without technical or procedural communications impediments.

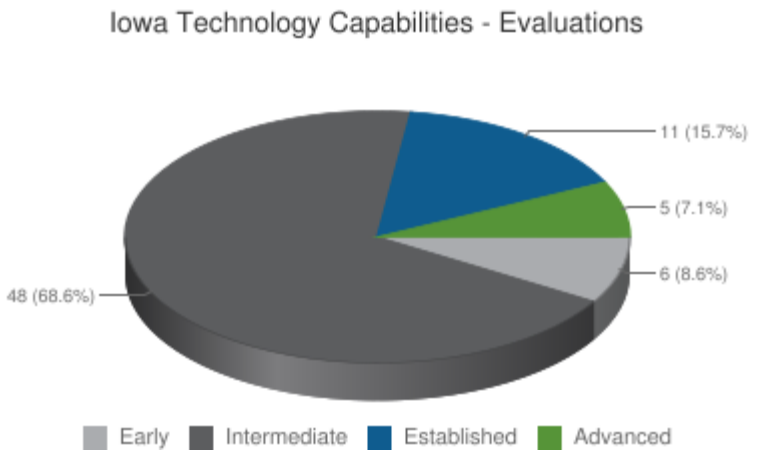
Part 2 - Statewide Communications Interoperability Capabilities Assessment Grid

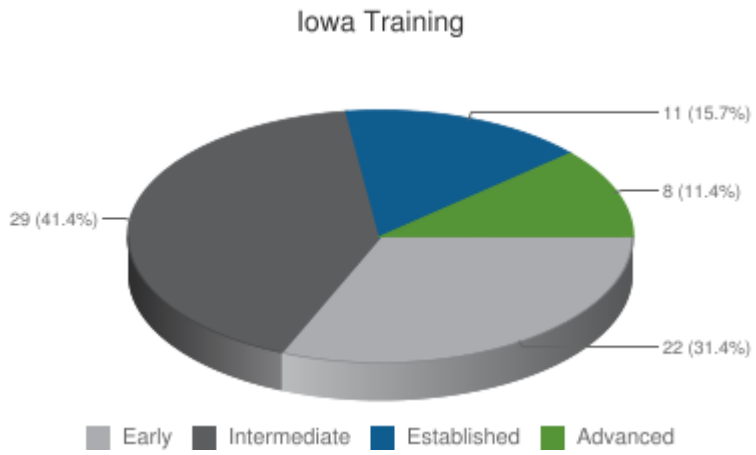
The "Capabilities Assessment Grid" is a statewide view of the results of the NECP Goal 2 assessment completed in Iowa by October 31, 2011. It contains an overview summary of interoperability as it related to the SAFECOM Continuum, and identifies areas of improvement, which will be identified in planning efforts by the SWIC and ISICSB over the coming year.

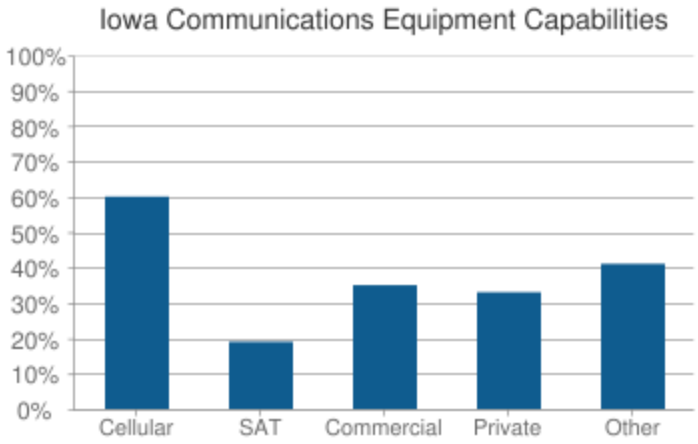


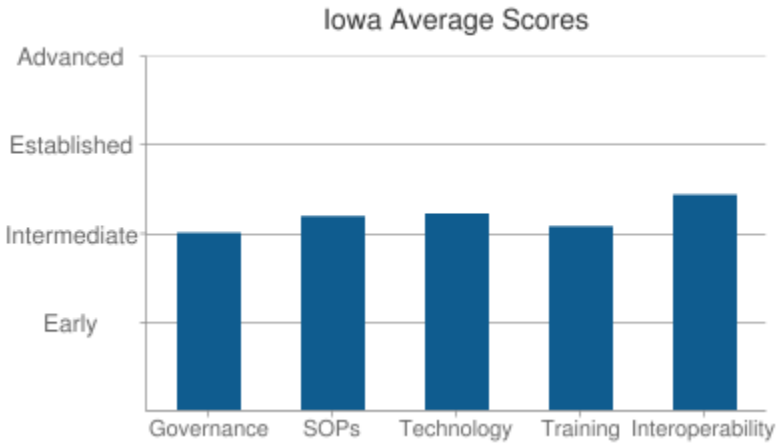



Iowa Standard Operating Procedures Capabilities - Evaluations
12 (17.1%)
10 (14.3%)
29 (41.4%)
19 (27.1%)
Early
Intermediate
Established
Advanced


Iowa Technology Capabilities - Evaluations
11 (15.7%)
5 (7.1%)
6 (8.6%)
48 (68.6%)
Early
Intermediate
Established
Advanced


Iowa Training
11 (15.7%)
8 (11.4%)
29 (41.4%)
22 (31.4%)
Early
Intermediate
Established
Advanced


Iowa Communications Equipment Capabilities
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Cellular
SAT
Commercial
Private
Other



As the results of the NECP Goal 2 Assessment were tabulated after the deadline of October 31, 2011, a complete analysis has not been prepared in time for this SCP submission. Additionally, approximately only 67.5% of Iowa's 99 counties submitted their assessments. Efforts on ongoing at the time of this submission to increase that participation rate.

However, it should be noted that the State of Iowa averages appears to be at the 'Intermediate' level of interoperability according to the SAFECOM Continuum, based on the above. This material will be studied by the ISICSB and in the coming year, the 2012 SCIP will focus on developing initiatives to improve that level.